



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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01/04/2012 Minutes

MEETING MINUTES

Open Space Committee

Meeting Date: January 4, 2011

Prepared by: Lisa Decker

Present: Ann LeRoy, Chair; David White, Joey Glushko, Patsy Kraemer, Elizabeth Karpati, Jane Auger, Lisa Decker

Absent: Leslie Mayer, Michele Hassler, Teresa DeBenedictis

General

- December meeting minutes were approved as unanimously amended.

Ann will distribute the Town's Annual Report for the committee member's review.

Downing Square

- There is no new information this week on the status of the landscape area at the intersection. Lisa will keep the OSC informed if there is any new information.

Mill Brook Linear Park Planning

- Joey reported that the ARB will meet next week to discuss Mill Brook. Lisa provided Andy West with graphics that he used to describe the plan to the ARB. We discussed how to approach planning for development adjacent to Mill Brook. (The ARB will decide if there should be an overlay district or decide as projects come on line individually.)
- Wayne Chouinard sent Ann the entire list of brook abutters for our use, which she circulated via email.
- Patsy mentioned that the bridge over the brook behind Colonial Auto was not accessible from Dudley Street. We discussed the possibility of constructing a path to the bridge in the spring. Joey said that a path would require an easement to eliminate any owner liability.

Symmes

- The OSC discussed the various open space components that are part of the Symmes plan. A conservation district and small vista park were part of the original plan. The Land Trust negotiated a conservation easement for the Land Trust and Conservation Commission to co-hold. Since the old permits were outdated and expired, the new contract did not include the conservation easement (it was overlooked). Brian Rehrig (ALT) and Nathaniel Stevens (Con Com) are working with the ARB to ensure that all restrictions are in place for the new development, permits and other legal work. The total restricted land acreage will increase in the new plan.

Open Space Plan

- The OSC has decided to postpone any work on the plan until later in the year.

Updating the 'Walking the Open Spaces of Arlington' Booklet

- David reported on the ideas under consideration for providing an on-line interactive walking map in a 'media wiki' format. Residents would be able to develop the content so it can be collaborative and interactive with smart phones and tablets. Users could also download the document as a hard copy. The software is available through the town.

Updates

- Mystic River Watershed Association Rain Garden Committee Meeting – Joey reported that there will be a meeting on January 17 to discuss possible locations for a rain garden on public land. The MyRWA will help fund and install the rain garden in the final location. We discussed possible options including the parking lot at the Arlington Reservoir, Colonial Village and the swale at the entrance to Menotomy Park.
- Busa Farm – No new information to report.
- Reservoir Habitat Garden – No new information to report.
- Wright Locke Farm – No new information to report.
- EcoFest – Scheduled for March 31, there is no speaker scheduled yet.
- Save the Silver Maple Forest Benefit – Ann announced that there is a benefit concert scheduled for February 4 at the Unitarian church.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.